



CONNECTICUT SCHOOLS BUILDING/GROUNDS ASSOCIATION
P. O. BOX 438, BLOOMFIELD, CT 06002
csbga.org

Testimony in Opposition to SB 443
An Act Concerning Pesticides on School Grounds, Parks,
Playgrounds, Athletic Fields and Municipal Greens

The Connecticut School Buildings and Ground Association (CSBGA) is a statewide organization comprised of facility professionals who focus on clean, safe, healthy, and green schools. The CSBGA was founded in 1974, and as a professional trade organization, we have worked through the years to encourage School Facilities Directors, Custodial & Maintenance Supervisors, School Business Officials and suppliers to work together respectfully and professionally, developing a proud tradition in the process. We appreciate the opportunity to testify on bills of interest to schools and grounds.

SB 443 would expand a costly unfunded mandate on schools and towns. This bill would exacerbate the current problem of addressing pest population by prohibiting the use of pesticides on high school and athletic fields, parks and municipal greens. Towns and cities continue to struggle to maintain safe playing fields for our children at the K-8, and SB443 would further extend those same problems and cost to high schools, towns, and cities.

With safety being one of the cornerstones of our organization, our major concern is not having the ability or tools to maintain our fields for safe use. Between uncontrolled pest population growth, invasive plants and weeds, and plant disease, it is becoming impossible to keep these fields in a safe, playable condition. With playing surfaces that are hard and uneven, the probability of injury increases exponentially. Any effort to expand the ban to high schools and towns will lead to many more athletic fields and school grounds becoming unsafe and unplayable.

CSBGA, as well as many other municipal organizations, believe that a comprehensive and balanced approach that safely controls pests and addresses all other safety issues is a far better way to ensure the safety of our school children.

Consequently, CSBGA fully supports the U.S. EPA recommended Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to care for all school grounds. IPM is an effective and environmentally sensitive approach that worked very successfully on school grounds prior to the ban and we believe will be safe and effective in the future.

Sincerely,

Steven Busel
President, CSBGA